



Piety and Dissent: Race, Gender, and Biblical Rhetoric in Early American Autobiography (Paperback)

By Eileen Razzari Elrod

University of Massachusetts Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. For pious converts to Christianity in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century New England, all reality was shaped by religious devotion and biblical text. It is therefore not surprising that earnest believers who found themselves marginalized by their race or sex relied on their faith to reconcile the tension between the spiritual experience of rebirth and the social ordeal of exclusion and injustice. In *Piety and Dissent*, Eileen Razzari Elrod examines the religious autobiographies of six early Americans who represented various sorts of marginality: John Marrant, Olaudah Equiano, and Jarena Lee, all of African or African American heritage; Samson Occom (Mohegan) and William Apess (Pequot); and Abigail Abbott Bailey, a white woman who was subjected to extreme domestic violence. Through close readings of these personal narratives, Elrod uncovers the complex rhetorical strategies employed by pious outsiders to challenge the particular kinds of oppression each experienced. She identifies recurrent ideals and images drawn from Scripture and Protestant tradition - parables of liberation, rage, justice, and opposition to authority - that allowed them to see resistance as a religious act and, more than that, imbued them with...



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